

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-04 OMB-01 AID-20 A-01

OPR-02 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OCL-00 EUR-25

SCCT-02 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 PC-04

DRC-01 /178 W

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P 231350Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2630

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 285

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PINS, ET

SUBJ : ASMARA SIT REP XII

REF : ASMARA 273

1. ASMARA POLICE AND POLICE COMMANDOS CONTINUE THEIR STRIKE IN ASMARA. THEY ARE PERFORMING NORMAL SECURITY FUNCTIONS BUT ARE NOT PERFORMING ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES. BRIG. GENERAL BERHANE TEFERRA, ERITREAN POLICE COMMISSIONER, DEPARTED FOR ADDIS YESTERDAY ACCOMPANIED BY SEVEN POLICEMEN WHO WERE INTENT ON PRESSING THEIR DEMAND TO THE EMPEROR FOR REMOVAL OF LT.GEN. YILMA SCIBESCI. GENERAL YILMA IS VIEWED AS A SUPPORTER OF EX-ERITREAN POLICE COMMISSIONER MAJOR GENERAL GASHAW. TRIBALISM IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE WITHIN POLICE FORCE WITH ENLISTED MEN AND NCOS DEMANDING THAT THEIR OFFICERS BE ERITREAN, NOT AMHARIC OR GALLO. PRESENTLY THERE ARE TWO OR THREE ERITREAN OFFICERS ON POLICE FORCE IN ASMARA.

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2. THE GOVERNORATE GENERAL IS STILL PARALYZED BY STRIKE OF THE STAFF. I ATTEMPTED TO CALL A MEETING OF THE US-IEG WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN FOR THURSDAY, 25 APRIL. VICE MIN FOR AFFAIRS SOLOMON TECLE ASKED THAT I POSTPONE IT UNTIL NEXT WEEK WHEN HE HOPES THAT STRIKE WILL BE OVER. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IS STILL REFUSING TO REMOVE HIS ASSISTANTS AS DEMANDED BY THE STRIKERS. CONTINUED PARALYSIS OF THE GOVERNORATE GENERAL CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAMPER TURN-OVER OF PROPERTIES INVOLVED IN PHASE-DOWN OF KAGNEW STATION. IT IS DIFFICULT AND NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO GET FIRM DECISION OUT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. PERRY

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